

***Aleiodes* sp. (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) Reared from an
Anomalous Host, an Adult of the *Eremochrysa punctinervis*
Species Group (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae)**

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During the course of a study concerning the bionomics of some symbiote-using Chrysopidae (Insecta: Neuroptera) approximately 200 adults of a population belonging to the *Eremochrysa punctinervis* species group were collected in Gates Canyon, Solano Co., California. The adult chrysopids were attracted to mixed ultraviolet/visible lights between 23 April and 25 September during the summers of 1978-1980.

The newly collected adults were housed in Dixie[®] unwaxed 8 oz squat containers with clear plastic lids and were supplied with artificial honeydew (Johnson and Hagen, 1981, *Nature*, 289:405-407) and water. Although the containers were free of other insects and plant material, on 2 occasions solitary hymenopterous larvae were observed in the cartons within 2 days of the collection date. Unfortunately, only one was noticed before the dead adult chrysopids were removed from the carton. In this case, a female was found with a collapsed abdomen and an emergence hole behind tergite VIII. This larva died, but the other larva matured. The adult was identified as *Aleiodes* sp. (Hymenoptera: Braconidae). However, after the subfamily Rogadinae is revised, this species will not remain in *Aleiodes* (Shenefelt, pers. comm.).

The Rogadinae are known to parasitize only lepidopterous larvae (Krombein et al., 1979, *Cat. Hymenop. Amer. N. of Mex.*, Vol. 1). Therefore, this would be a radical departure from the known host range of the subfamily. Still, it seems certain that the adult chrysopids were the hosts since there were no other insects in the cartons and the larvae were green, as would be expected if they had fed on the chrysopids. In addition, other Braconidae are known to parasitize a wide variety of insects and life stages, including adult Chrysopidae (Clancy, 1946, *Univ. Calif. Pubs. Ent.*, 7(13):403-496; Krombein et al., 1979, *Cat. Hymenop. Amer. N. of Mex.*, Vol. 1). So an adult chrysopid host would not be a major shift in the context of the family as a whole. However, it seems probable that this was merely a case of incidental parasitism of an atypical host. While the observed rate of parasitism was approximately 1% for *E. punctinervis* adults, many, apparently conspecific, adult wasps came to the mixed ultraviolet/visible lights. Therefore, it may be that the wasp normally parasitizes some lepidopterous larvae, but occasionally oviposits in chrysopid larvae. This could explain the apparent discrepancy between the low rate of parasitism observed and the abundance of adult

parasites, and the emergence from an adult host, which is unusual for the Rogadinae.

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